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STATE/NEA FOR A/S WELSH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/26/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [IZ](#) [YM](#)

SUBJECT: ROYG AGREES TO ACCEPT FORMER IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: SANAA 54

Classified By: Ambassador Thomas C. Krajieski for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)
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1.(S) This is an Action Request see paragraph 4. During a February 26 meeting, Abu Bakr al-Qirbi informed Ambassador that the Iraqi government plans to release imprisoned former Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and that the ROYG has agreed to grant him residency status in Yemen. The Ambassador told al-Qirbi that he was not aware that Aziz was scheduled to be released and asked about the status of charges against him. Al-Qirbi replied that he believes the Iraqi government will drop all charges against Aziz, who the ROYG believes is in poor health. Al-Qirbi seeks a formal USG reaction to the proposal that Aziz be allowed to reside in Yemen following his reported impending release from Iraqi custody.

2.(S) On a separate issue with Iraq, Ambassador informed al-Qirbi that the Iraqi Government will soon formally request the extradition from Yemen of former Iraqi regime element Omar Sabawi (reftel). Ambassador said that the USG will strongly support the extradition request.

3.(C) Al-Qirbi then stated that he will be attending the upcoming GCC Ministerial meeting in Riyadh and the Arab League Ministerial meeting next week. Ambassador asked about Arab League Secretary Mousa's proposal on Iraq. Al-Qirbi indicated that it may be delayed until after the formation of the new Iraqi government and that he hopes it will reduce outside interference in Iraq. Al-Qirbi emphasized that the Iraqi people themselves must deny outsiders the opportunity to create conflict between ethnic groups in Iraq. He said that building trust is important and that the key ministers in the new Iraqi Government must have the trust of all groups.

4. Action Request: Post requests guidance from the Department on Yemen's offer to grant residency to Tariq Aziz.

Krajieski